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Part I.

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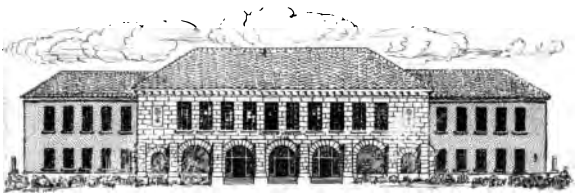

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MATERIALS

FOR

FRENCH COMPOSITION.

BY

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PART I.

EXERCISES BASED ON *L'ABBÉ CONSTANTIN.*

FOR PUPILS IN THEIR SECOND OR THIRD YEAR'S STUDY OF FRENCH.

BOSTON, U.S.A.:
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PREFACE.

THESE exercises were originally devised for use in the Boston high schools: as they have proved successful there, I venture to make them public. They were composed in the belief that pupils can succeed in writing idiomatic French only through the careful study and imitation of good French models. Any attempt to turn ordinary English into a foreign language, with the help of grammar and dictionary alone, is, except in the case of advanced students, almost an absolute waste of time.

Halévy's well-known novel was chosen as a basis for three reasons: it is widely used; it is published in this country (by W. R. Jenkins of New York); it is written in a language at once simple and extremely idiomatic. For every one of the thirty-five exercises, I have taken as a model about a page of the *Abbé Constantin*, and have constructed in English, from the words and phrases it contains, a new conversation or narrative, rendering peculiarly French expressions by corresponding English idioms, and using the single words, as far as possible, in forms and relations different from those they have in the original.

The pupil first studies thoroughly the French page, and then, with the help of this text and of his grammar, but *without*

using a dictionary, translates the English exercise. After this translation has been corrected by the instructor, it should be reviewed in some way at the next lesson.

I hope soon to complete a set of similar exercises, based on Ventura's *Peppino* (published by W. R. Jenkins of New York), for pupils in their second year of French, and, later, a third set, founded on Super's *French Reader* (published by D. C. Heath & Co. of Boston), for scholars who have studied the language only one half-year.

CAMBRIDGE, Nov. 1, 1890.

PART I.

EXERCISES BASED ON *L'ABBÉ CONSTANTIN.*

FOR PUPILS IN THEIR SECOND OR THIRD YEAR'S STUDY OF FRENCH.

1.

CHAPTER III: from the beginning to "Et, de ses mains agitées."

Two restless and gloomy strangers examined the parsonage with the greatest interest. They walked to and fro before the old house; and, finding[1] the door wide open, they resolutely entered the drawing-room, on the ground floor, which opened directly on the garden. The furniture was old but charming. Both the strangers gazed with a bewildered expression at the armchairs and round tables with which the room was furnished. Then[2] the first followed the second into the dining-room, which served also[3] as a kitchen. At the table places had been set for two. "Here we are!" they said to themselves.

[1] 'to find' = *trouver.* [2] *puis.* [3] *aussi.*

2.

CHAPTER III: from "Et, de ses mains" to "Mes paroissiennes!"

The Abbé was not young; he was a white-haired man,[1] with a kind and gentle expression. The Parisian lady, with a trembling voice,[2] kept on begging him to let her tell him that he

was just the priest that she wanted. She asked him to forgive her for speaking so to him. "But," she went on, "as I was saying to my sister this morning in the train, and a moment ago in the carriage, I am very glad your little parsonage is so well kept: I am perfectly satisfied with it. If I knew how to construct my phrases cleverly, I should congratulate you with all my heart. I hope we shall have no trouble in getting over our difficulty."

[1] *homme*, m. [2] *voix*, f.

3.

CHAPTER III: from "Mes paroissiennes" to "Pour cela, continua B."

Mrs. Scott, who belonged to a Canadian family, spoke French with a slightly American accent. "For some minutes," she said, laughing, "my sister and I have been so excited that we find it very hard[1] to recover our powers of speech. You thought we had deserted you: that is why we came to greet you the very first day. We have brought our travelling-bags. That is about all I wanted to say, and I hope[1] I have spoken so as to make myself understood.[2] Are you not very much surprised to see us?" "Why, yes!" said John, who appeared in the doorway of the little house.

[1] see preceding lesson. [2] use active infinitive.

4.

CHAPTER III: from "Pour cela" to "Qu'est-ce que c'est."

"It's John, the lieutenant," said Bettina. "I'm so flustered that I've forgotten his last name. While I was rummaging in my bag, the Abbé was introducing him to me, but the introdution

was not altogether conventional. He said that John belonged to the family, and that he was an officer in the regiment quartered at Souvigny. I bowed slightly; and then I began to look for[1] the green case in which were enclosed the thousand francs that I had brought for the poor. I looked at my sister; she slipped it into my left hand, 'Here it is,' she said. I took from it my little donation, which I presented to the old priest."

[1] 'to look for' = *chercher*.

5.

CHAPTER III: from "Qu'est-ce que c'est" to "Il paraît, dit le curé."

The Abbé, filled with gratitude, thought he must thank the ladies; but he didn't know how to say what had come into his mind, nor even how to tell them that he was very grateful to them. "What have you just given me?" he stammered. "Those little things are very heavy. I am seventy-nine years old; many donations have passed through my hands: but never have I had such a sum of money in my possession. The money that I have had has come to me in small sums, and has not stayed long. You don't know what you are giving me. There must be a thousand francs inside." "These ladies are very kind," cried John, who had suddenly appeared again.

6.

CHAPTER III: from "Il paraît, dit le curé" to "Et, s'adressant à P."

"See here," said old Pauline; "if you don't take care, you are going to give me too much money, more than is right. You are following your sister's example. You, madam, and your

sister, too, want to give away as much as possible every month. That's right; but that isn't all. If I received this gold, what should I do to atone for it? There are many servants in the country even poorer than I. They can accept[1] it; but as for me, I can't. Besides, if you find it hard to spend much, say, isn't there any other way than to be giving all the time? Put your money away." "That isn't what I want," said Bettina.

[1] *accepter.*

7.

CHAPTER III: from "Et, s'adressant à P." to "Jean dut."

At the thought of running to get a glass of fresh water for them, she was struck with horror. She couldn't answer a word. "That's too much!" she said to herself. "I don't know which end I'm standing on. These Americans must live on strange things! I should like to see[1] them eat.[2] I know it's awfully improper, but I should like to invite them to dinner. Couldn't you dine with us?" she continued. "It would be very kind of you to do so.[3] You're willing, aren't you? You must be dying of hunger. We have a leg of mutton — nothing else. Never mind, Mr. John," she said, turning to the lieutenant, "I'll do the honors."

[1] *voir.* [2] *manger.* [3] 'so' = 'it.'

8.

CHAPTER III: from "Jean dut" to "Allons, dit Jean."

Mrs. Scott pouted; Bettina had to answer. "Oh, how good you are! I shall be only too happy to come back and dine here, if my sister is willing to accept. Come, Susie, it will

really be nicer to dine here. Will you? If you only knew how it will rest us to stay! I don't see what troubles you. You are not in the habit of saying no." Then, turning once more to the priest: "We were both to pass the day together at a hotel, and then take the Paris train again at five o'clock. But if we go back, Susie, we mustn't expect a feast. We had such a horrid breakfast there this morning!"

9.

CHAPTER V: from the beginning to "Parmi ces colonies."

"Are the Indians[1] masters of America[2]?" said old Pauline. "Once," replied Bettina, "America belonged not[3] only to the French, to the English, and to the Spanish, who had come to live there, but also to the Indians. Those days are past. The foreigners, who came from a country very far from us, advanced, extended their frontiers, and went and founded colonies. They won from the Indians those fields where at this time there are great cities, churches, and newspapers, and those plains which, scarcely a hundred years ago,[4] were not inhabited[5] at all, and are not entirely so now. The Indians, repelled by these invasions, were obliged to withdraw: at present there are none of them left in the greater part of our country."

[1] *indien*, m. [2] *l'Amérique*, f. [3] *non*. [4] *il y a*. [5] *habité*.

10.

CHAPTER V: from "Parmi ces colonies" to "La plus française."

"Among all countries," said Mrs. Scott, "the wealthiest is America.[1] There is no country in the world where it is

easier to get rich. If you economize your money, if you try to save, if at the same time you wait for good opportunities and know how to profit by them, a time will come, one of these days, when you will feel that you are rich enough." "Then," said John, "the American will stop, perhaps; or at least he will begin to spend money[2] the Frenchman never will. He well knows that the only true luxury is a good investment. He is always talking about capital and interest, and is peculiarly attracted by five per cents."

[1] see preceding exercise. [2] omit.

11.

CHAPTER V: from "La plus française" to "Je voudrais."

Susie and Bettina had been living in Montreal for a great many years, but their mother had taken it upon herself to bring them up in the love of France. The remembrance of their sweet native land, which is no longer theirs, remains very strong in the hearts of all the French people of Canada. They are all possessed by one and the same desire: to become Frenchmen once more. The education of the two sisters had been quite French, or rather Parisian. Every year, early in April, they were flooded with a deluge of French letters. As soon as Mrs. Norton, who was a friend of both of them, had asked them to come and spend a few months in Paris, and had offered to make all the preparations, Bettina wrote to her sister: "Let's go! Do, please, give in. When we are gone, Richard will consent; and if he doesn't consent, what difference does it make?"

12.

CHAPTER V: from "Je voudrais" to "Tout le reste."

As[1] we didn't want to waste our first days in errands, Richard bought us three horses — three regular little beauties. He added one at the request of Susie, who was watching over his shoulder what he wrote to the horse-dealer. He has hired us a house, but I have never set foot in it. As soon as we get out of the train, we shall find our carriage at the station. We should like to be able to follow the coachman on horseback, so as to[2] enjoy our horses. We ride beautifully: we are the same height, our faces are just alike, and our figures nearly so. We shall want to have you at dinner at our house that day. Choose six or seven people, and bring them with you. I leave it entirely to you. All I care for is that there shall be only seven.

[1] *comme.* [2] 'so as to' = *pour.*

13.

CHAPTER V: (skip one page) from "Cela fait" to "Le second grand artiste."

After that, Mrs. Scott, being in need of a chief-cook, without whom her establishment could not go on, was lucky enough to go first to make inquiries at the baroness's. The very first thing, she hit upon a first-class artist, who, though very distinguished, was obliged to live out with common people. He knew that he was dealing with a foreigner, and he accepted. "I know, to my great sorrow," said Mrs. Scott to her friend, "that I shall have to economize a little. Bettina is old enough to marry, and I must provide for her. I have been foolish. Never, never, can I keep up my style of living. It will go very much against me to make up my mind, but I must do it."

14.

CHAPTER V: from "Le second grand artiste" to "Et voilà comment."

The coachman chosen by Mrs. Scott was an eminently and unusually expert man. No bargain was made without him. The buying of horses was left entirely to him. In order that it might never be necessary for him to follow the directions he had received with regard to this, he made lavish use of his full authority. Within the short space of three months he founded Mrs. Scott's stables, and took possession of them. "You are really doing wonders," said Mrs. Scott. "All this," said he, "is merely a matter of money." He never wore livery. It was perfectly well understood that if he consented to mount the box, mornings, it was only to teach the children to drive. In less than six months he retired from business, a rich man.

15.

CHAPTER V: from "Et voilà comment" to "Quand elle vit venir."

The baker's boy handed Mrs. Norton a card, which she gazed at in speechless amazement. The card bore Mrs. Scott's monogram; below, there were these words: "Dear[1] friend: you didn't invite us for this evening's dinner, but we shall take the liberty of coming,[2] and even of bringing some friends. You know all of them: they are common friends of ours. Yes, this very evening we shall be able to judge your bill of fare and pay homage to your cook's talent. At half past six we shall be at 18 Washington St., dressed in white. Just as we were getting out of the express train, a carriage, drawn by your horses, and driven by your coachman, was going out of the yard. We started. The coachman, impeded by a crowd of carriages,

stopped short, behind the platform of the station. And that is how we were able to find out[3] where you live."

[1] *cher.* [2] *venir.* [3] *apprendre.*

16.

CHAPTER V: from "Quand elle vit venir" to "Imaginez une sorte."

Twenty minutes later Mrs. Scott's horses came trotting up the avenue. When Mrs. Norton saw the carriage coming, she understood that she couldn't deceive herself any longer. "Two guests[1] more," she said. "What shall I do? It's all over." But she at once added[2]: "No; on the contrary. Let's count. The old stationer and his wife and the general are not coming. One guest is as good as another. Mrs. Scott and Bettina will join our little staff. Their success will be immediate. In such cases it's all done between seven o'clock in the evening[1] and midnight. It will be a matter of five hours. Mrs. Scott hasn't a wrinkle, not even a white hair. Few women exist who typify Parisian grace and beauty as she does.[3] Since the day when they allowed their pictures to appear in the illustrated papers, all the Parisian ladies have been turning round to look at them in the streets, just like chimney-sweeps. The very next day they might[1] have had their photographs sold at all the stationers'."

[1] see preceding page. [2] *ajouter.* [3] omit the word 'does.'

17.

CHAPTER V: (skip about eight pages) from "Voilà pourquoi B. attendait" to "La machine siffla."

"Ah!" they cried, perfectly happy, as soon as they saw that they were alone; "we are going to be left to ourselves: from the moment of our arrival we shall be our own mistresses for at

least ten days. No more proposals, no more amusements; not an hour of impatience! How happy we shall feel! Longueval is ours: we have taken it, never to let it go again. Let's get into the cars." What were they so happy about[1]? They were tired of their Parisian life. That's the reason.[2] That's why they had felt the need of living on horseback in the complete solitude of the country. Mrs. Norton wasn't to come until the 25th. So they had awaited with the greatest impatience the arrival of the carriage that was to take them into the woods and fields. At last the day of their departure had come.

[1] *de.* [2] *raison*, f.

18.

CHAPTER V: from "La machine" to "Puis Bettina."

They were both very happy to hear the engine whistle, and especially to see the train move. They were seized with such[1] a fit of laughter that they threw themselves back into a corner. Then Bettina cried suddenly, leaning out of the window and waving[2] her hand: "Good-bye! I'm going to see Souvigny once more!" "What's the matter?" exclaimed Mrs. Scott, who looked very much surprised. "What have you in your hand? What[3] crazy idea has got into your head? If[4] you were a small child, I should not be sorry to see you so glad. But we are going to have one of your admirers at dinner this evening: what would he think of you? What you did isn't at all nice. It's silly." "What, silly?" said Bettina, accompanying her words with a touching smile.[5] "Not so bad as that. To begin with —" "You will find an opportunity this evening of telling me what you think about it," said Mrs. Scott, curtly.

[1] *tel.* [2] 'making a little salutation with.' [3] *quel.* [4] *si.* [5] *sourire*, m.

19.

CHAPTER V: from "Puis Bettina" to "La foule."

The train[1] went through the main street, as far as the station, without slowing up. Its passage through the town created a sensation. The inhabitants, who had come to meet Mrs. Scott, were waiting on either side of the yard. Mrs. Scott and Bettina suddenly changed the current of their conversation. "What is it?" said Bettina. Then she added[2]: "Don't you see that big white house that shines like gold! It's a travelling circus. You may say that the whole town is there. I see Edwards himself with a great crowd. It amuses me ever so much to see them come from all directions. Let me question them — are you willing? Yes, it's all right. Say!" Mrs. Scott protested: "It isn't a circus. That house is the station. I see two horses harnessed to our carriage; Edwards is driving them; he has condescended to bring the ponies. Our telegram was certainly sent before dinner: it came three hours[3] ago. These persons have come, perhaps, to meet us." "How kind they are!" said Bettina, rushing out of the car.[1]

[1] see preceding lesson. [2] *ajouter*. [3] *heure*, f.

20.

CHAPTER V: from "La foule" to "Miss Percival."

When the inquisitive people heard that the two sisters were going to drive around the town[1] in a carriage resplendent with gold,[1] and that they would show themselves to the crowd, dressed in silk and diamonds, they went, one after another, in no great haste, to the station, and crowded together in the yard. "They expect two fairy princesses," said Edwards, who had taken off his gloves, and was stroking the pretty horses with his big hand.

"They will be rather startled, it must be confessed, when they see[2] Mrs. S. and Miss B. in their simple travelling dresses. My appearance will produce something of an effect on these good people. I'm not sorry to be present at the arrival of the ladies.[3] I shall have the honor of sitting on the box, beside Miss B., in Mrs. Scott's seat. My place will be filled, after a fashion, by Miss B. But if[4] the young lady slips, or if[5] the ponies threaten to rear, I shall say, examining them with a knowing look: 'Take care, miss!' Thereupon, before she has had time to answer, I shall take the whip and the reins. Then, when the townpeople perceive[2] my skill, they will stare — never fear!"

[1] see preceding lesson. [2] future. [3] *ces dames.* [4] *si.* [5] *ou que.*

21.

CHAPTER V: from "Miss Percival" to "Non, gardez-les."

Bettina took the reins and the whip: she was going to drive. The two leaders were very lively and, at the same time, very gentle. How happy they were when they were allowed to keep their pace! Until they got out of the court, they stayed well in place, and their trotting hoofs rang on the sharp little cobble-stones; but as soon as they left the town, they saw before them five kilometers of highway, without rise nor fall. Then[1] the four ponies fell, all together, into a furious gait. A long murmur of astonishment followed[2] them. Bettina, who had started up her team in such a masterly way, forced them to trot, holding them in a little; but when they were in the middle of the road, she let them go. They were so good! It was such a pleasure when she could let them fall into their own gait! "Here, Susie!" she cried, as soon as they were quite alone. "Take the reins. You have a firm hand. Don't you want to drive?"

[1] *alors.* [2] *suivre.*

22.

CHAPTER V: from "Non, gardez-les" to Chapter VI.

At Paris they hadn't room enough to drive fast. That annoyed them. They certainly did enjoy themselves: they were so fond of seeing the carriages go by. But it would have been more fun for them to drive four-in-hand, and they didn't dare to any more — people stared at them too much. Even in the morning they met[1] persons who had been watching there for hours, to have the pleasure of bowing to them and seeing them enjoy themselves. The meeting was always[2] over in a flash. They hardly had time to see the riders who had just passed by the carriage. "Who's that gentleman?" exclaimed Bettina one morning, just as the horsemen were appearing, already somewhat exhilarated by the open air. "I think I know him," said her sister. "He bowed to us quite elegantly, in the most approved Parisian style. Can it be M. de Lavardens?" "You're mistaken," said Bettina. "He isn't a Parisian at all. Parisians don't count. Look! Here is some one who is walking his horse toward our carriage. Is it going to begin all over again?"

[1] *rencontrer.* [2] *toujours.*

23.

CHAPTER VI: (skip two paragraphs) from "L'Abbé Constantin" to "Jean ne prêtait."

"Look, John!" said the old priest, as soon as they had arrived at Longueval. "I don't feel at home here. What a change! I'm beginning to understand — I think I know what these great modern houses are like. This driveway that leads to the château used to be deserted, and now here it is all

sanded and raked. What will become of us? You must take care, John. Promise me you will. We are not going to find the old park any more, as we used to. Let's take a few steps; let's go nearer to the château. According to what I've heard, Mrs. Scott is going to entertain rather liberally. These new splendors of Longueval must be strikingly superior to the cold and sober magnificence of that old-fashioned house where the old bishop used to give a reception once a year. Up to that time there had been nothing more sumptuous at Longueval. We used to think that there could be nothing finer in the world than Bishop Foubert's great velvet armchair. It often happened that His Reverence fell asleep in it after dinner, and then we would softly pinch him in the arm."

24.

CHAPTER VI: (skip three paragraphs) from "Madame S., en voyant" to "Madame S., pendant ce temps."

The children had been introduced to Mr. John. They got up when they saw him come in, and went to meet him. How glad they were to see him again! They were still just the same children — a very pretty little boy, who had his mother's golden hair, and a very nice little girl of six. After they had looked at him admiringly, they kissed him, and installed themselves on his knees. How kind he was to come! "What are you an officer in?" said the little boy. "Is it you who fire the cannon?" added the little girl. "Are artillerymen the only soldiers in this place?" said Harry. "You mustn't overwhelm him with questions," said Mrs. Scott. "Will you let me be close by, when you fire off the cannon?" asked[1] Bella, a minute later; "say, will you?" "If you want to," answered John, "and if your mother is willing. I'll take you some day. It

will be fun for you to hear them fire the cannon." "How kind you are!" said the children.

[1] *demander.*

25.

CHAPTER VI: (skip two pages) from "La conversation" to "Se lever ainsi."

The two sisters were taking a horseback ride in the park. They were in ecstasy. No one knew how to ride better than they. They expected to go out riding twice every day, morning and evening, except Sundays. They got up very early in the morning. At that time it was broad daylight at half past four. John was with them on this ride. He had been asked to show them about his native place. If it hadn't been for him, they never could have discovered a lot of charming little spots, which he pointed out to them. In a quarter of an hour an animated conversation had sprung up. The sisters were so happy to be acquainted with the surroundings! So much so, that they asked him to join in their walk the next day. Walking was their delight; and it was John's, too.

26.

CHAPTER VI: from "Se lever ainsi" to "Je serais curieux."

Mr. Reynaud was very fond of his occupation. He got up when many officers go to bed,[1] and often finished his day when the regiment was getting up. He was so bold as to say that there was, perhaps, nothing easier than learning to get up at half past five (I almost said five), and that this was the only way to begin the day; and, besides, this was what suited

him best. It was such a good thing, he said, not to be one's own master all the time. How true his words must have been! "In spite of everything, what suits us best is to have our course of life straight before us. Having to obey like this is an admirable thing." "But —" said Bettina. "I beg of you," said John, "don't speak: it's unnecessary. I know everything that you're going to say. Make inquiries about officers, and you will see[2] that what I have told you is true."

[1] 'to go to bed' = *se coucher.* [2] *voir.*

27.

CHAPTER VI: (skip four pages) from "Monsieur Jean" to "Chantons: *Something.*"

The priest had gone back to his old habits: he was asleep. He had not been able to go to bed in very good season, and he had got up early. He had tried to prevent himself from going to sleep; but they had received him so kindly that he had dozed off after dinner. It was John's fault. The Abbé had told him to raise his voice, if he saw him sleeping. The evening was gradually growing cooler, but the good priest didn't suspect that he was catching cold. Mrs. Scott was singing softly; Bettina was singing, too, in a low voice; John was making no noise. "Dear me!" exclaimed[1] Bettina. "Just look at him! He's asleep." "What!" said John. "Yes, that's so: you're right. Wait. It will be better to wake him up. Leave it to me." "I'm going to get a cloak," said Mrs. Scott, "so that he shall not catch cold."

[1] *s'écrier.*

28.

CHAPTER VI: (skip one page) from "Un quart d'heure" to "Madame Scott."

John was a slender young man, with a black mustache. Since the day when[1] he had met the sisters on his arrival, he had had the honor of being introduced to them again. Already he was no longer anybody in their eyes. He made no mistake about that: they had made their meaning clear.

He didn't exactly know how it happened, but a quarter of an hour later he was escorting the two sisters back to the road. For an hour they had been drawing near the gate that opened into the park. John had a question to ask them. They were coming up to the village, which was about a hundred paces from the park, when he suddenly said to Bettina: "That gentleman who was riding on a black horse, and who bowed to you as you went by, is a friend of mine. Shall I have the pleasure of bringing him to you one of these days, after the 24th?" "Not before!" exclaimed Bettina. "No one until then!" "So much the better," said John

[1] *où.*

29.

CHAPTER VI: from "Madame Scott" to Chapter VII.

As for Bettina, she remained a long time leaning on the balustrade; then[1] she started once more toward the castle. "Here I am back again," she said to herself. She went and kissed her sleeping sister. It was the first day, since they had both been living in France, that Mrs. Scott had not read clearly in her heart. It seemed to her that she had made a favorable impression on the Abbé and the young man. "I shall go to

work, with all my heart," she said to herself, "to inspire them with perfect confidence." She had been convinced, from the very first day, that it would be well to make them her friends. Susie would scold her severely, she was sure: she expected that. Scold her? Oh, yes; but[2] how happy she would be to read in their eyes that she did not deserve it — and in *her* eyes, too.

[1] *puis.* [2] *mais.*

30.

CHAPTER VII: (skip seven pages) from "Oh! oh! vous avez l'air" to "Non, non, il n'a pas eu."

"John will soon leave Souvigny," said the old colonel to the retired major. "He must go off to another regiment. He was meaning to come and live here when he was promoted, and he looks very much out of sorts[1] about it. You ask, 'Why is that?' Well, he is very fond of this place. You yourself, now, don't you always feel what may be called a touch of pride, when you think of the place where you were born? He was in hopes of not having to be all alone forever, but he has always thought that a man ought not to try to get married. There were people, however, who told him that he was a good match. 'We'll soon find a wife for you,' they used to say; 'come, now, you can take our word for it.' 'Excuse me,' he always replied, 'you are wrong.'"

[1] *contrarié.*

31.

CHAPTER VII: from "Non, non" to "Eh bien!"

John's house was worth some twenty thousand francs; he had an income of some ten thousand francs; add to that the

sums[1] which he received from the government, about ninety francs on the one hand, and not quite a hundred and fifty on the other — 240 francs a month, or,[2] if you prefer, 2880 a year[3] — that was just it: in short, if any one was well off, it was he. He had, therefore, decided to refuse two fine dowries. Susie and Bettina were very curious to know why. John's godfather discovered that they were never so happy as when he was talking to them about him; so, to please them, when he was alone with them, mornings, he used to tell them John's story. He knew how curious they were, and he made up his mind to put up good-naturedly with their curiosity. Wasn't he wrong? Yes, he was; but[4] so many people would have done the same thing!

[1] *somme*, f. [2] *ou*. [3] *an*, m. [4] *mais*.

32.

CHAPTER VII: from "Eh bien!" to Chapter VIII.

Bettina was bringing back Harry and Bella, who had rushed into the stable; to the great delight of all three, they found John in[1] the parlor. Bettina did not feel the least confusion — not the slightest shadow of embarrassment. "You here, Mr. John!" she said, in a joyful[2] tone. "I had[3] a slight suspicion that you would come and see us — I can't exactly explain it — and I thought[3] it would be better not to go to the stable. I resisted,[3] but they made[3] me go — it was all about two charming little ponies. Fortunately I came[3] in again just now, and, sure enough, here you are. Let's go and see Susie — will you? Of course. We shall pass a more agreeable[4] evening than last winter, when[5] you used to come to see us. Then we found nothing to say to each other, for we were scarcely acquainted.

Well, when[5] people have nothing more at all to[1] say, it's better to keep still[6] — that's what I think." "So do I," said John.

[1] *à.* [2] *joyeux.* [3] past indefinite. [4] *agréable.* [5] *quand.* [6] *se taire.*

33.

CHAPTER IX: (skip Chapter VIII) from the beginning to "Il plaisante."

Mr. Reynaud, for whom Bettina had been waiting for several months, is to come back to-morrow morning. It will be the 7th. "If the weather is only fine[1]!" she says to herself, again and again. The evening before, it was raining; this morning the sky was rather threatening; but at last the bright sunlight has scattered the clouds. For two hours the weather has been lovely. "Well, I can't[2] complain," she said, turning to Susie, who had returned a few minutes[3] before. "It is you who have brought back the fine[1] weather." "Not at all," said Susie, laughing. "But you'll not sleep much to-night.[4] This morning you woke up earlier than usual; you got up at once; you ran to the window; and all day long the only thing spoken of has been the weather that it's going to be to-morrow." Then they kissed each other tenderly, and went to bed.[5] "When is the wedding to be?" said Susie to herself.

[1] *beau.* [2] *pouvoir.* [3] *minute*, f. [4] 'this night.' [5] 'to bed' = *se coucher.*

34.

CHAPTER IX: from "Il plaisante" to "Tante Betty."

Harry and Bella had been to Havre,[1] and on the way home, in the train, they had asked Mr. Scott to give back the letter that John had written[1] them. They had read it over again, hoping to discover the details of the great event; and, sure

enough, on the first page they had found once more the description[2] of the return of the regiment — that's[3] what it was all about — soldiers, more soldiers, nothing but soldiers.

Mr. Scott was to take them to the garden: he had jokingly[4] promised them, as well as Bettina, to take them to see the artillery go by; but for them it was a serious matter — far more serious than one would have thought. They had been waiting for[1] it a long while — since the 2d of August. They knew that the regiment had just crossed the village: the meeting had been related to them with all its details. Each child[5] took[6] his straw hat, and ran[1] to the window.[1]

[1] see preceding lesson. [2] *description*, f. [3] *cela*. [4] 'in joking.' [5] *enfant*. [6] *prendre*.

35.

CHAPTER IX: from "Tante Betty" to "Absolument sûre."

The governess had been with the children for fifteen days. She refused everything[1] they asked of her. What a woman! They didn't like her, and didn't want her as a governess. One day they spoke to her, and asked her whether she would let them go and sit in the park. She gave them permission to walk about[2] close to the château, and they promised her not to sit down. As soon as they started, Harry forgot[3] what had been agreed upon between the governess and them; but Bella remembered their promise, and reminded Harry of it. However, if they had been quite sure of not seeing the governess until evening, they would not have resisted[4] the temptation: they would have settled down in the park. That[5] happened on the day of their return from Havre.[5]

[1] *tout ce que*. [2] *se promener*. [3] *oublier*. [4] insert *à* after the verb. [5] see preceding lesson.

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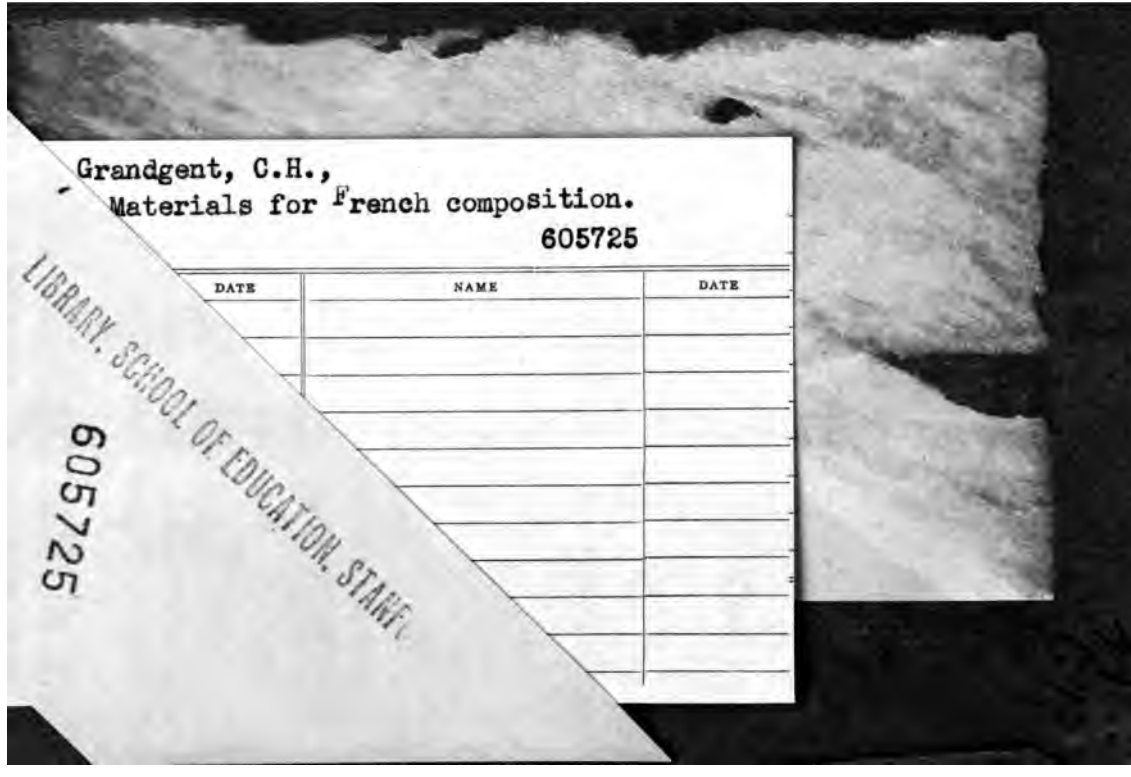
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